

a. Watkins
Organization file

IC 6-19

May 29, 1979

Action	
Info Copies	
Watkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Landis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Metz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reeves	<input type="checkbox"/>
AO	<input type="checkbox"/>
DPB	<input type="checkbox"/>
CSB	<input type="checkbox"/>
SDB	<input type="checkbox"/>
AAB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Aff.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cust. Rel.	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDC AAF Off.	<input type="checkbox"/>

*(distributed
6-4-79)*

Memorandum

To: Chief, Land Information and Analysis Office

From: Acting Chief, EROS Program

Subject: Reorganization of EROS Program

The Overstreet Committee's EROS STUDY GROUP REPORT has correctly pointed out that a primary contributing factor to the problem of finding a suitable organizational structure for the EROS Program is "the lack of a clear policy statement of the Department's role in the Government's civilian aerospace remote sensing program" (p. 2, par. 2). There are several possibilities:

1. USDI operates the Earth Observation Satellite Program

I firmly believe that the Department should assume complete responsibility for an operational Earth Observation Satellite Program including both the space segment and the ground segment. This position is supported by Dr. Gordon Law, and would probably be welcomed by Senators Stevenson and Schmitt. On April 16, I sent a memorandum (attachment 1) to all USDI bureau directors soliciting their opinions on a draft position paper (attachment 2) which recommended USDI responsibility for an operational system. Positive responses were received from Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Mines, National Park Service, Office of Surface Mining, and from the Water Resources and Topographic Divisions of the Geological Survey (attachments 3). I, therefore, believe that there is wide support for USDI to take this bold initiative.

The Integrated Remote Sensing System Study (IRS³) undertaken in response to Presidential Directive NSC-42 has been charged to "examine an alternative which would provide for designation of a single lead agency within the Government that could assume operating responsibilities for future remote sensing activities." Though that Committee will not make its recommendations until after June 15, it is clear that one of the questions on which Secretary Andrus will have to take a position is Interior's anticipated role. I feel that if we do not take the opportunity at this time to assume operational (that includes budgetary) responsibility, we will never get it again.

In any event, if USDI accepts such a responsibility, the EROS Program is the only group that could grow to handle it. The logical organizational position for such a

sub

satellite management program is at the departmental level. This is Option 1 in the Overstreet Committee report. We strongly support it.

2. USDI operates the ground processing for an Earth Observation Satellite Program

USDI could assume responsibility for only the ground data processing segment of an operational Earth Observation Satellite Program. This position seems to be favored by Assistant Secretary Joan Davenport. I believe it is fraught with danger. We would continually be torqued by NASA to design and fund ground data processing systems for space sensor systems in whose design we have not participated and with which we may not agree. Witness our recent contingency budget item for \$7.5M to build a digital processing system for Thematic Mapper data from Landsat D. Witness a request received this week to design a ground processing system for Stereosat - a system which we think should not be built as presently conceived.

Nevertheless if USDI accepts this more limited role, the EROS Data Center (EDC) is clearly the place where ground processing would be done. A case could be made for keeping even this limited function at the Departmental level, but it could equally well be accomplished at the USGS bureau level as it is presently established.

There is some rationale to assigning the production activities of a ground processing function to an operating division like the proposed Division of National Mapping. However, the training and technology transfer activities conducted at EDC and the research projects conducted by the EROS Program Office are essentially interdisciplinary in character, and we are concerned that they would not receive adequate attention if submerged in an operating division. Also the interagency negotiations required to satisfy the needs of NASA, USDI, USDC, and other agencies, as well as other bureaus within USDI, would be more effectively conducted from a higher position on the organizational chart. We believe that a position at the Director's level would be more appropriate. This is Option 2 in the Overstreet Committee report. We believe that because Assistant Directors do not normally handle line responsibility, Option 2A, with EROS assigned to the Director's office, would be preferable.

3. EROS Program incorporated within the Division of National Mapping

We understand that the Gossman Committee has recommended that the EROS Program be included in the Division of National Mapping by designating an Assistant Division Chief who would be responsible for both the data production facilities at EDC and the training, technology transfer, and research activities.

If the decision is made to place the program in the Division, we believe this is the proper way to do it, because it would maintain the integrity of the program and be most amenable to consistency in the interbureau and interagency functions of the program.

4. Alternative structure for the new division

On May 11, I forwarded to you a concept for a Map and Information Systems Division. This was prepared by Al Watkins on the basis of several discussions with me, Bill Hemphill, Rupe Southard, and others. After discussing it with Gene Thorley in your office last week, I have made a few minor changes, and resubmit it as attachment 4. I believe it should be presented to the Director for his consideration with the other alternatives. Al Watkins would welcome that opportunity to discuss it with the Director in greater detail.

S/

Frederick J. Doyle

Attachments 4

cc: EROS RF(2)

LIA chron.

(Subj. files , EDC

EROS:FJDoyle:mam:5/29/79:860-7881

5-9-79
Rev. 5-29-79MAP AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

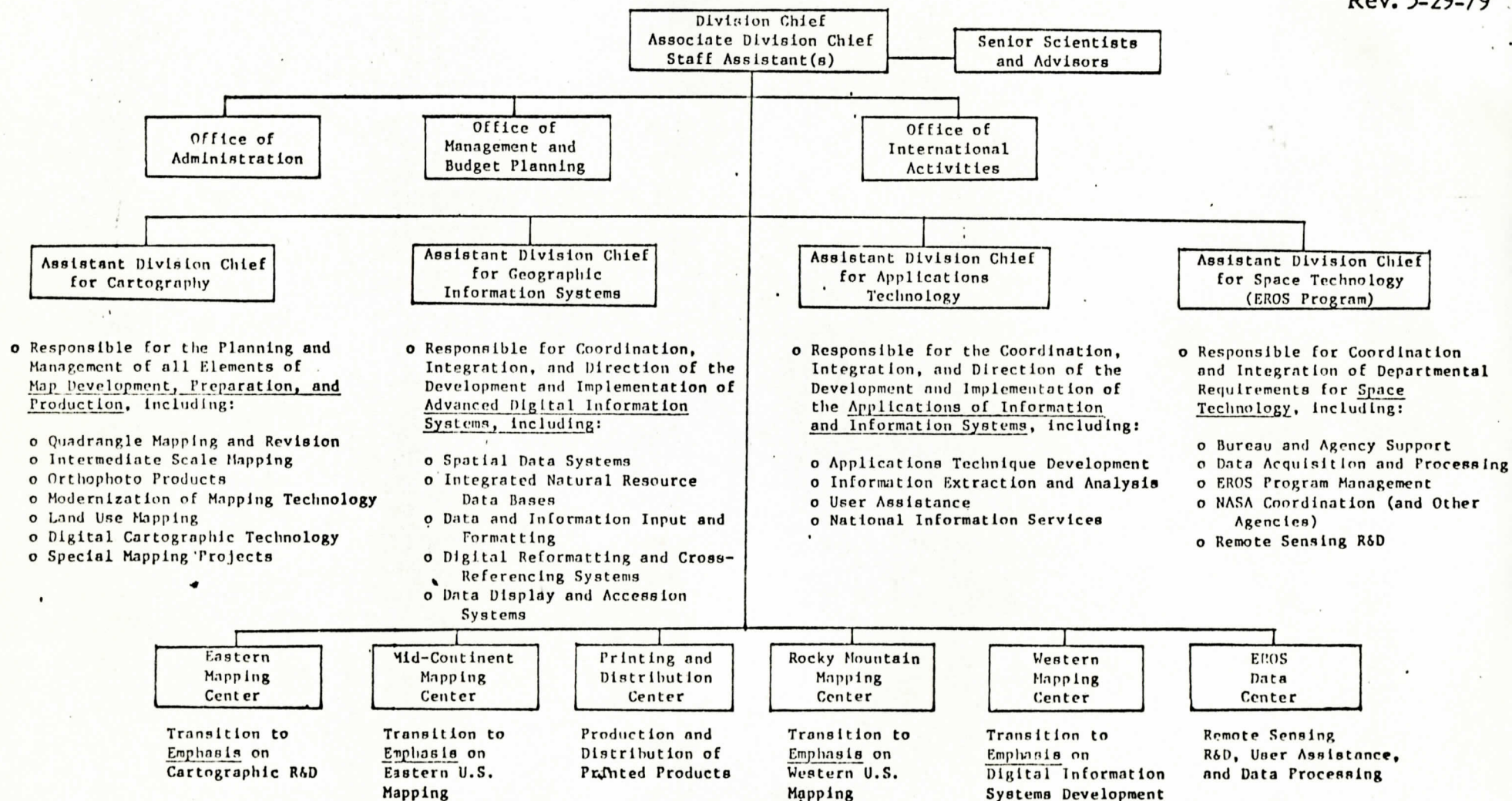
- o INTEGRATES ELEMENTS OF THE CURRENT TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND LAND INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS OFFICE (INCLUDING THE EROS PROGRAM AND THE GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM) AND ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION INTO A SINGLE ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

ADVANTAGES

- o PROVIDES SUITABLE STRUCTURE AND MISSION FOR EMPHASIS OF NEW AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.
- o HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATION OPTIMIZED FOR OBTAINING RESOURCES AND APPEAL TO EXTERNAL AND DEPARTMENTAL "CONSTITUENCIES," I.E., CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, INTERIOR BUREAUS AND AGENCIES, NASA, STATE GOVERNMENTS, ETC.
- o MOVES TOWARD INCREASED FIELD CENTER SPECIALIZATION AND AUTONOMY.
- o HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZED FOR ACTIVITY COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION AS OPPOSED TO DETAILED FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT.
- o ADAPTABLE TO INCREASED CONTRACTOR SUPPORT OPERATIONS AT FIELD CENTERS (BECAUSE OF FIELD CENTER "INDIVIDUALITY").
- o OPTIMIZED FOR TRANSITION FLEXIBILITY (IN TERMS OF RATE AND SCOPE), TOWARD ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND INCREASED CONTRACTOR ACTIVITIES WHILE CONTINUING TO MEET CURRENT PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS.

MAP AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

5-9-79
Rev. 5-29-79



RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

THIS ALTERNATE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE EMBODIES ALL OF THE RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL INTEGRATION, SUCH AS:

- o DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SCIENCES OF CARTOGRAPHY, GEOGRAPHY, AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPLICATIONS.
- o INCREASE THE RANGE AND THE TYPE OF EARTH RESOURCES INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY.
- o ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED DIGITAL GEOGRAPHIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.
- o IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES.
- o PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF PERSONNEL (INCLUDING CONTRACTOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL).
- o ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE APPLICATION OF ANALYTICAL SKILLS NEEDED TO ADDRESS NATIONAL LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.